Mr. Smith of New-York made a decided impression on the Convention, by a clear, forcible, and conclusive examination of the whole subject, demonstrating that the charges against the North were unfounded, and denying any purpose or policy by the Republicans of interfering with the constitutional rights of the South. But he was willing to meet the complaining section balf way -to resort to the great remedy provided by the Constitution-of a general Convention of the States, where all the differences could be fairly and fully considered, so that there could be no valid objection, and it was an honorable mode of extrication.

THE NEW SLOOPS-OF-WAR.

In the House debate to-day of the new sloops of-war proposition, several interesting and rather exciting episodes occurred. Mr. Stanton, in response to a question from Mr. Garnett, indicated his opinion that there would be no contest in regard to the Forts until after negotiation for a peaceful settlement had been exhausted.

But Thaddeus Stevens insisted that the duty of the incoming Administration would be to repossess itself of the United States property, of which the Government had been robbed, in as peaceful a manuer as possible, but to retake the property in any event,

Mr. Garaett quoted Mr. Hutchinson's convereation with Mr. Lincoln, and, on the testimony of Messrs. Burnett and Brown of Kentucky, stated that be was a Bell and Everett member of the Kentucky Legislature.

Mr. Anderson of Kentucky corrected him. reading a statement of Mr. Hutchinson, who is his relative, that Mr. Lincoln did not say that Kentucky should prepare for war, and added that Mr. Hutchinson was a Democrat and not a member of the Legislature. Mr. Anderson denounced Secession, and, while opposed to coercion, declared himself for the Constitution, the Union, and the laws, eliciting great applause in the gal-

John Young Brown, his colleague, replied in very neat speech, declaring himself for the Union if equality could be maintained in it, but if not, Kentucky's star would grace the galaxy of the Southern Confederacy.

The Chairman of the Committee (Mr. Colfax) endeavored to restrain the debate to the special order, but in vain, as all parties wished to hear these avowals. Finally the House concurred in the appropriation for the sloops-of-war, and, although the Committee of the Whole had non-concurred in several unimportant Senate amendments, Mr. Sherman carried through a concurrence in the whole of them. So this important bill is passed without going back to the Senate.

To the Associated Fress.

Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1861.

The mail contractors in the Seceded States are continually asking whather they will be paid as herotofore, to which the Post-Offise Department responds affirmatively, stating that drafts will be issued to them on the Postinasters, to be paid from the postal revenue collected with these States.

The Postinaster General has removed the route agent between Grafton and Parkersburg, Va., on the ground that he left his businers without permission, to engage in the Secession movements in that State.

Several Postinasters in Kentucky and Tennessee have been removed for a similar cause.

The Peace Conference will, according to present indications, take a final vote on the pending proposition on the 22d, Washington's birthday.

For the first time a fing staff has just been erected on the War Department building for the display of the national flag.

the War Department building for the display of the national flag.

The House Select Committee of Five on the President's Message transmitted January 8, will to-morrow make a report relative to the stationing of vessels, &c., saying that the defense of the Atlantic coast has been greatly neglected, and concluding with a resolution censuring the Secretary of the Navy for, as they charge, accepting without delay or inquiry the resignation of officers who were in arms against the Government when tendering the same.

It has been ascertained that a larger number of vessels are affect now than for the last twenty years, and other vessels may be fitted out during three or four weeks. There is, however, a deficiency of lieutenants, midshipmen, masters and medical officers, as well as examen, the law limiting the last named to 8,500 men.

The Virginia State Convention.

RICHMOND, Va., Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1861. Virginia State Convention reassembled to-day A large number of resolutions on Federal relation were offered.

Most of the resolutions express attachment to the Union; in favor of an equitable settlement of existing difficulties; denounce coercion, and declare the purpose

of Virginia to resist it. ome of the resolutions declare that the ""Union of the South is the safety of the South, and that each State should speedily resume the powers it delegated

to the Government when it was formed."

A resolution was tabled for ruising a Committee to inquire whether any movement of arms or men had been made by the General Government to any fort or arsenal in or bordering on Virginia, indicating prepara-

tions for an attack or coercion.

A resolution providing for the holding of a Convention of the Border States at Wytheville on the last

Thursday in March was referred. A resolution calling on the Commissioners of th Poace Conference for information whether any settle ment acceptable to Virginia was likely to result from

their deliberations was referred. Mr. Clemens made a speech denying the statemen that he had franked incendiary matter to free negroes and others in Virginia. He pronounced the franks for

The Committee reported that all but sixteen countie

in the State had been heard from, and that the major-ty for a reference of the action of the Convention to the people was 52,857.

Mr. Crittenden will soon be invited to address the people here on national questions by a large number of

The Virginia Legislature.

RICHMOND, Va., Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1861. In the State Senate to-day Mr. Douglas offered join os declaring that in view of the resolutions sent to Virginia from the North, that Virginia reiterates her declared purpose of resistance to coercion, and pledges herself to meet force by force in the effort to maintain the true principles of the Constitution, and uphold the rights of the slaveholding States. Ordered

The resolutions of the Michigan State Legislature were sent back without a word of comment.

Palmetto Flag Torn Down-Ameri-can Fing Hoisted. Nebraska City, Tucaday, Feb. 19, 1861.

Old Fort Kearney was taken possession of last night by a party of Secessionists, and this morning a Palmette waves over the fortress, bearing the inscription, * Southern Rights." Great excitement prevails, and efforts are being made to take the fort by the Union

LATER-SECOND DISPATCH.

An attack was made on old Fort Kearney this morn ing at 10 o'clock, and amid great excitement the Palmetto flag was torn down and the stars and stripes raised in its place.

FORT KEARNEY, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1861. The telegraphic reports that at old Fort Kearney the Palmetto flag was raised, does not apply to the present new Fort Kearney, where Col. Miles comman if I understand his views and the temper of his troops, before the stars and stripes are ever hauled down every man will die at the foot of the flag-staff.

XXXVIII CONGRESS. SECOND SESSION.

SENATE......Washington, Feb. 20, 1861.

Mr. DOOLITPLE (Rep., Wis.) presented the credentials of Timothy O. Howe, Senator elect from Wisconsin.

consin.

Several private bills were passed.

On motion of Mr. WADE (Rep., O.), the House bill to authorize the Postmaster General to discontinue the mail service in the States where it is liable to be in-

mail service in the States where it is liable to be interfered with, was taken up.

Mr. GREEN (Dem., Mo.) moved to add that the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to prevent any attempt to collect the revenue in such States.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Dem., III.) suggested that this was not the proper place to offer this amendment.

Mr. GREEN said k was a direct attempt to strike at the States claiming to be out of the Union. Is there insurrection in any State, or obstruction to the mail service in any State? Even if there was, the Postmaster-General or Precident has no power to interfere, unless asked by the Governor of the States.

Mr. HEMPHILL (Dem., Tex.) offered the following: Whereas, Several State have withdrawn from the Union, and the laws of the Unice States have withdrawn from the Union, and the laws of the Unice States have withdrawn from the Union, and the laws of the Unice States have withdrawn from the Union, and the laws of the Unice States have withdrawn from the Union, and the laws of the Union of the States, and make arrangements with the Governments of the same for Inter-Festal communication therein.

Mr. GREEN withdrew his amendment.

ments with the Governments of the continuous of the mullestin therein.

Mr. GREEN withdraw his amendment.

Mr. CLINGMAN (Dem., N. C.) said he believed those States were out of the Union, and foreign States as much as Great Britein, and thought the mail service should be stopped, but wanted to alter the bill, and moved to strike out "insurrection," and insert as a reason for the discontinuance, "the Soccasion of certain States."

rtain States." Mr. FITCH (Dem., Ind.) suggested, say a refusal to acknowledge the laws so as not to recognize Seces-sion; also to strike out the words postal laws main-tained, so as to give no reason to employ force. Mr. CLINGMAN accepted. Mr. MASON said the bilk was a declaration of the

Mr. MASON said the bill was a declaration of the House of insurrection on the part of these States. He trusted the Senate would look on the question, as it is one of the most grave ones ever before the country. He said the fact was the States had confederated, had a Congress in ression with as much power as we presses, yet the bil calls it insurrection, and assumes that there is no new empire but the Federal power still in existence in those States.

He proceeded to argue against anything which plunged the country in civil war.

At 12 o'clock the tariff bill was taken up.

The amendments passed in Committee were read and adouted, except a few on which separate votes were

adopted, except a few on which separate votes were asked.

asked.

A separate vote was had on the amendment reducing the duly on sugar, and placing a duly on tea and coffee.

Mr. BIGLER (Dem., Pa.) explained the action of the bill, showing the aggregate increase to be \$16,322,000, including the proposed duty on tea and

offee. Mr. GRIMES moved to strike out the words relating to ten and coffee. Lost—Yeas 19, Nays 24.

The amendment was then agreed to
The next question was on the amendment placing a laty of 5 per cent on wool. Agreed to—Yeas 26, Nays 19.

The amendment placing a duty of 15 per cent, ad valorem, on books and periodicals and on watches, was Mr. SUMNER (Rep., Mass.) offered an amendment, that books which have been printed over 30 years, be

free.

Debated at some length and disagreed to.
Mr. LANE (Dem., Oregon) offered his amendment, which substitutes essentially the tariff of 1846.
Mr. DOUGLAS (Dem., Ill.) said he did not think it the time now to make any radical changes in the revenue system. The passage of such a bill would still more alienate the affections for Union of the Southern people. He hoped to see a system of commercial intercourse adopted that would include all the States on the continent. He thought the time auspicious for such a system as the German Zollverein and free trade in contiguous countries. He did not propose to initiate any policy which would annex any of the countries, but simply to establish a commercial union and have free trade with them. He suggested also that such a com-

simply to establish a commercial union and have free trade with them. He suggested also that such a commercial union might aid in the settlement of our present difficulties, and make the union complete.

Mr. BIGLER replied. He said he did not wish to be placed in any false position. The Senator from Illinois thinks the consideration of this bill will add to the excitement, but he forthwith introduces a more complicated system. The people of his State (Pennsylvania) do not think the passage of this bill will increase the difficulties of the country, when it is evident something must be done to increase the revenue of the country. He proceeded to argue in favor of the present hill.

esent bill.
Mr. DOUGLAS disclaimed any fatention to make it appear that Pennsylvania was doing anything to in-crease the excitement, and reiterated his objections to the bill. He wanted to do something to preserve the

American Union.

Mr. HALE said he wanted to come back to the pair. HALE said he wanted to come back to the practical, and moved to amend so as to leave free of duty paintings and statuary, the productions of American artists, and place all other paintings and statuary under a duty of 10 per cent. Adopted.

Mr. BINGHAM (Rep., Mich.) moved to amend so as to put a duty of 5 per cent advalorem on copper ore. Adopted.

On padent of Mr. SEWALD (D.

Adopted.

On motion of Mr. SEWARD (Rep., N. Y.), the mo-tion by which a duty was put on tea and coffee was

considered. Mr. SIMMONS (Rep., R. I.) said that the Government was about to be demelished for want of money; and that if a duty was put on tea and coffee it would make no difference in the price of those articles. He moved that the duties on tea and sugar be limited to

o years. Mr. HALE (Rep., Mass.) said that he should vote of the day on tea and coffee because the necessities of the Government required it, and if they wanted evidence of the fallen state of the Government, they would find it in Mr. Buchanan's proclamation for a

Mr. CLIMGMAN said that the credit of the Gov

ernment fell when it was known that Lincoln and Hamlin were elected, and that if it should be known to-morrow that they had resigned, the credit of the Government would like again. Mr. FESSENDEN asked if it was an absolute ne-

Government would like again.

Mr. FESSENDEN asked if it was an absolute necessity for Mr. Floyd to go back to the Cabinet again.

Mt. CLINGMAN—Not at all.

After further debate the amendment was agreed to. The question recurred on the original amendment, as modified, when it was agreed to by Yeas, 25; Nays, 21.

Mr. POWELL moved as an amendment, "that all acts giving bounties to fishing vessels be replaced."

Disagreed to by Yeas, 18; Nays, 37.

Mr. BAYARD moved to add the provision "that the duties levised on any of the articles in the bill shall not exceed thirty per cent ad valorem in the port whence exported, except wince and brandies." Lost by Yeas 18, Nays 28.

The next question being on the amendment offered by Mr. Lane, he moved to adjourn.

It was stated that there was an understanding that the bill should be passed to-day, and the motion to adjourn was refused.

ourn was refused.

Mr. LANE proceeded at some length to speak
gainst the bill. After speaking for some time,
Mr. BAKER moved the Senate take a recess. Re

Mr. BAKER moved the Senate take a recess. Refused by Yeas 10, Nays 27.

Mr. LANE resumed, speaking on Secession and general subjects, when it was enggested that if a vote was allowed to be taken on the tariff to-night'the Senator from Oregou could speak to-morrow.

After some discussion and personal explanation, the question was taken on Mr. Lane's amendment.

Mr. WILSON moved to amend by inserting the first act of the tariff of 1857, with the rates increased to that of 1846, and the free list untouched. Lost.

Mr. Lane's amendment was then disagreed to, by

Mr. Lane's amendment was then disagreed to, by Yeas 13, Nays 25. Mr. FOSTER said that he should vote for the bill,

Mr. FOSTER and that he should vote for the bill, but contended that it was not for the advantage of New-England any more than the agricultural interest. The question was then taken on the bill.

YEAS-Mesra Anthony, Baker, Beiger, Bingham, Camevon Chandler, Clark, Doolittle, Durkee, Feasanden, Fost, Foster, Grimes, Hale, Heriam, King, Norrill, Seward, Simmons, Suner, Ten Evgl. Trumbull, Wade, Wilkinson and Wilson—23.

NAYS-Mesra. Bragg, Chingman, Doughas, Green, Hunter, Johnson (Ark.), Johnson (Tour.), Lane, Latham, Nicholson, Pearce, Powell, Rice, and Sebastian—14.

The Tariff bill was therefore passed, and the Senate

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House resumed the consideration of the Volunteer bill reported from the Military Committee.

Mr. BOCOCK (Dem., Va.) said he considered the pessage of the bill a foregone conclusion. He opposed it on account of the features which appear on its face; he opposed it no consequence of the effect its passage will preduce on the peace and prosperity of the country. He opposed it above all, and more than all, in consequence of the policy it indicates, if it does not in the strongest degree initiate. He yesterday characterized the bill as a declaration of war, and having since carefully read it, he reiterated the remark. It was more than a declaration of war. It invested the President in time of peace with dictatorial powers. The bill does something more than suppress invasion and insurrection. It authorizes the President to employ a military force to suppress insurrection. and insurrection. It authorizes the President to employ a military force to suppress insurrection against the authority of the United States. He briefly argued that the various features in the Constitution were designed and intended to prohibit the General Government from operating in the States, unless by their consent, saying that this bill authorizes the President to carry on positive, direct, and immediate coercion against the second States, and gees further than that. It clothes the President

with the whole military power of the country. It was not known what Mr. Linzolu, when he succeeded to the Presidency, would consider an act of insurrection against the authority of the United States. We have had in this city a large part of the stunding army, owing to an idle apprehension. The Select Committee owing to an ine apprehension. The Select Committee have reported that no conspiracy in connection with the ecizure of the Capitol exists, and yet the military forces here have accumulated since that time. In a few brief days this Administration will go out, and here are assembled a large military force ready for Mr. Lincoln's use; and, in addition, this bill would enable had to call out the whole militia force, and accept the services of volunteers to suppress insurrection against the authority of the United States. Whither are we going? Where are we drifting? We have already going? Where are we drifting? We have already divided the Union into two Governments, and if we enter upon war this time, the consequences must be more disastrous than history has ever recorded. As to the Border Slave States, they ought to take such steps as will best preserve the peace of the country. If this can be done by joining the Gulf States, they ought to do it. But if blood be shed and the armise of the two Governments come in collision, and bad passions be engendered by strife, then farewell, a long farewell to any hope of a reconstruction of the Union. While the Peace Conference are in session, and when they have not even made a report, we see foreign troops gathered here, and members pass to the Capitol by the point of the bayonet. The Convention of Virginia was now in recession, and whatever hope may have been cherished of a peaceful solution of our difficulties, it would at least be diminished by the passage of the pending bill.

Before he concluded his remarks the morning hour expired.

The consideration of the report of the Committee of

Thirty-three was resumed.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM (Dem., Ohio) addressed air. VALLANDIGHAM (Den., Onlo) and assessed the House at length in an earnest speech in favor of preserving the Union, by peace, conditation, and compromise. He also advocated his own proposition to give a veto power to the Senate, and the Electoral college to the four principal sections of the Union, so

college to the four principal sections of the Union, so as to protect themselves against aggression.

The House passed to the consideration of the Senate amendments to the Navy bill. That appropriating \$1,306,000 for the construction of seven steam screw sloops-of-war having been read,

Mr. GARNETT (Dom., Va.) offered a provise that said ships shall not be used to execute the Federal laws or aid either the land or navel force in any States claiming to be without the Federal jurisdiction.

Mr. GARNETT said if there were no other reason, the bankrupt condition of the treasury should in-

son, the bankrupt condition of the treasury should in-duce the House to refuse concurrence in the Senate's amendment. From what had been said in the Senate by prominent gentlemen, these vessels were intended by prominent gentlemen, these vessels were intended for coercive purposes. Among other things, be alluded to Mr. Lincoln's speeches, and a private conversation between Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Hutchison of Kentucky, to show that Lincoln is in favor of coercing the South-ern States. Lincoln is wary and frank, and does not attempt to hide the claws of a tiger under the velvet for. He does not, like his Republican friends, seek to avoid the issue.

void the issue.
Mr. STANTON (Rep., Ohie) thought it extraordi-Mr. STANTON (Rep., Ohio) thought it extraordinary that Mr. Lincoln should be held committed to coercion from casual conversations. If the Seceding States shall return to their allegiance, they will bring back the forts, etc., with them. If, on the contrary, they shall ultimately maintain a separate nationality, he did not believe any man would wish to enter upon a course that could result in no practical good. Mr. GARNETT wished to know whether the gentle-

mr. STANTON replied he speke for himself, and what he had gathered of the views of his friends around him. They would not be guilty of unnecessary shedding blood

Mr. STEVENS (Rep., Pa.) hoped what the gentle-

man from Ohio said was not said as the united voice of the Republicans. He (Mr. Stevens) held different views. He thought it was the intention to retake all the public property of which they had been robbed, and retake it in such a manner as to necessarily use the gentlest means first, and then such as may be Mr. GARNETT thought Mr. Stanton did not prop-

orly represent the views of the Republican party. erly represent the views of the Republican party. He (Stanton) belonged to the moderate section of that party, and he reminded him that in every time of excitements and crisis the moderates will be driven like thaff tefore the wind by the fanatical section.

Mr. ANDERSON (S. Am., Ky.), in justice to his constituent, Mr. Hutchison, caused a newspaper statement of the latter to be read relative to the conversation between him and Mr. Lincoln.

versation between him and Mr. Lincoln.

Mr. STANTON, in further explanation, said, in reply to Mr. Stevens, that he took it for granted the next Administration will not recognize the Constitutional right of Socession, but that it will be treated as revolution. He took it for granted that Mr. Lincoln will see he has no Constitutional power to forego the execution of the haws in the mode least calculated to create difficulty. If the Southern States do not return, and there is no Constitutional mode of recognizing a separate nationality, of course this business must end in war. There is no escape from it.

in war. There is no escape from it.

Mr. GARNETI—Then there's no great difference
between the two gentlemen. The gentleman from
Pennsylvania is for retaking the forts, &c., now, and Pennsylvania is for retaking the loves, e.c., now, and the gentleman from Ohio is for retaking them after a little while. I repeat, you have the declaration of the President elect, in his public speeches and in his pri-vate conversation with Mr. Hutchison, that he in-tends to make war on the South.

Mr. ANDERSON at this point asked the gentleman

whether he was for the Union.

Mr. GARNETT-I am for Virginia secoding at the Mr. traker in the moment. [Applause and hisses | Several gentlemen excitedly rose, and moved the gal-

leries be cleared.

The CHAIRMAN reminded all present of the impropriety of demenstrations either of applause or dis-

approbation.

Mr. BROWN (Dem., Ky.) asked his colleague (Anderson), who had said he was still for the Union, whether he was for coercion against States which have

Mr. ANDERSON did not believe a State has the right to secede. Did his colleague believe so? He (Anderson) was for the Union and Constitution, and the enforcement of the laws so long as we are in the

Union. [Applause.]
Mr. LEAKE (Dem., Va.) demanded that the gal-

Mr. ADRAIN remarked, "of all except the ladies."
Mr. ADRAIN remarked, "of all except the ladies."
Mr. JOHN COCHRANE (Dem., N. Y.)—The galleries are behaving better than we are. [Laughter, and a voice, "That's a fact."]
The CHAIRMAN said if the applause was repeated,

was not for coercing the South. He did not believe the Government could be held together by force. He deplored civil war as much as any other gentleman

Mr. BROWN asked, if coercion or force should be

sed by the incoming Administration, would his col-legue be for Secession. Mr. ANDERSON replied, he was no friend of Mr. Mr. ANDERSON replied, he was no friend of Mr. Lincoln, did not sustain him, and would not support him, unless he comes up to the Union, Constitution, and Laws. When a man, coming from the North, East, South, or West, does his duty as an American citizen, and stands under the old flag, he was willing to give him a hearty and cordial support. He knew his colleague's District was as loyal as any in Kentucky; although it has been Democratic, the Catholic and adopted citizens of that District are ready and willing to stand under the old flag.

Mr. BROWN said his highest and holiest ambition was to do all to contribute to the perpetuity and ad-

was to do all to contribute to the perpetuity and advance of his country. He was for the Union. His Staß was for the Union. Her voice had been and was for peace, compromise, and conciliation. Old Ken-Stake was for the Union. Her voice had been and was for peace, compromise, and conciliation. Old Kentucky's loyalty was beyond challenge. She had suffered most and murmured least. Her soil was the grave of the canonized bones of Clay, a great and good pacificator. She boasts her Crittenden now, in Clay's place in the Senate. Her Peace Commissioners were now in council in this city, pleading for pacification. The bones of her brave sons were bleaching on Norsh-Western plains, where they fell in battle, defending their homes, wives and children of the men whose representatives on this floor delighted in defaming her institutions. [Applause on the floor and galleries.] In his homes, wives and cannot be abore and galleries.] In his politics he did not believe in the right of Secession, but the Declaration of Independence said when a Government became destructive of the ends for which it was created, it was the inherent right of the people to alter or abolish it. He believed in the divine right of revotution, we are in the mists of a revolution. If the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Stevens) foreshadowed the policy of Lincoln's Administration, and if a correive policy against the States that had withdrawn was to be pursued, Kentucky would'resist. Her Legislature, without distinction of party, had so resolved, almost unanimously. In the event of war, the cause of her Southern sisters would be her cause. As she may be the last to join, she will be the last to leave a Southern Confederacy. Kentucky was for the Union. She Confedency. Kentucky was for the Union. She asked only equality, her rights, and if compromise fail, and coercion be begun, her star will glitter on the dag of the Southern Confederacy, and her brave blood flow in its cause. He hoped his colleague's question was

Mr. GARNETT resumed, arguing that the attemp

Mr. GARNETT resumed, arguing that the attempt would be made to collect the revenue in the secondary of the troops here as forming a kind of Imperial Guard to attend the Precident elect, and alluding to Gen. Scott in no complimentary terms. Mr. MILLSON protested against the effort to represent every subject, even the most ordinary, at legislation, as a means for an attempted coercion of the Southern States. He suggested to his colleagus, if they endeavored to create such an impression on matters comparatively immaterial, they would cease to gain credit when they should raise their voices against measures actually objectionable. Should we burn our

Navy and dismiss our officers, for fear the existence of a Navy threatens some of the States of the Union? He expected to vote to cone, with in favor of the measure in years past. His colleague, perhaps, had been as uniformly against it. The appropriation would not be available till the lat of July, and it would be foll two years before the versels can be constructed. The engines even cannot be built before the present cantonal difficulties end one way or the other. If his colleague supposed this was a war measure, he could relieve his apprehension. He knew of nothing better to arrest prosecution of war against the seceded States than what is proposed by this amendment; for, by spending \$1,200,000 in this manner, that amount will be taken from other objects, and to that extent cripple the presecution of war, if war was even proposed. He showed the peaceful purposes for which the vessels are intended, and caused to be read the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy on that subject. He concluded by saying if war comes, his colleague could not fail to discein its approach, for he seemed to watch for war more than those who watched for the morning.

Mr. CURTIS (Rep., Iowu) moved to amend the amendment by adding except in defense of the Government of the United States. The gontleman from Virginia (Garnett) had endeavored to convey the impression of intentional coercion or war in consequence. There was about 900 troops in Washington—a number not equivalent to a single regiment. Were they to take no measures for defense when our ships are fired on and our flag ionalted? There was war in the South against the Union and peace of the country, and for the safety of our homes and firesides, and for national defense, we want the army, navy and militia.

Mr. BRANCH said it was true there were only 900 troops here now, but next year the number might be 90,000. He earnestly expressed himself against the keeping of military force after the manner of European Governments.

Governments.

Mr. PHELPS (Dem., Md.) opposed the building of the proposed sloops for practical and economical res-

Mr. FLORENCE (Dem., Pa.) said he several years ago predicted that the foolish misapprehensions and attacks on the Navy would result in an effort, as now presented, of disbanding the American navy. If we are to maintain the Government at all, this is the time and manner to provide a sufficient force for the protection of our commerce and flas.

Mr. MAYNARD (S. Am., Tenn.) suggested if these vessels were built at the Philadelphia Navy-Yard, this would insure them against being used for war or coercion.

Mr. FLORENCE replied there was no fear that that Navy-Yard would not have fair play. The skillful me-chanics so well known to the country will secure the construction of some of them there, if the representa-tives of that city will take care of its interests. Although he was about to leave these gay and festive econes, he trusted that the Navy-Yard would not be neglected.

Mr. MORSE (Rep., Me.) advocated the Senatamendment. He did not think any came of excite-ment should shat up the navy-yards, and withdraw what navy we have from the ocean. The condition of the world demands that we shall increase our navy. the world demands that we shall increase our may, the could not believe there will be any war among us. He could not believe the good sense of our people has departed. If the South shall not make contemptible forays on the public property, the time will come, if the secoding States shall not return, when we will have a pencenble separation, instead of a separation by war.

war.

Mr. GARNETT'S amendment was rejected, and that
of the Senate agreed to—111 against 38.

The House took a rocess until 7 o'clock.

The House took a recess until 7 o clock.

EVENING SESSION.

Mr. RUFFIN (Dem., N. C.) regarded the proposition of a Middle Confederacy as an unnitigated humber, to retard the great Southern movement, and ascheme of political tricksters. He carnestly advocated screening, and condemned what he characterize as the miscrable doctrine of coercion. The President is a driveler in the hands of designing men, and Gen. Scott is guilty of userpation. He justified the firing into the Star of the West. If it be sgain necessary to into the star of the West. If it be sgain necessary to charter another vessel for a sim lar expedition, let it be a long, low, raking looking schooner, and host at its peak the tlack flag emblazoned with the skull and crossbones, and then the stars and stripes will be saved

The following is a report of the speech of Mr. Mc-KEAN (Rep., N. Y), delivered in the House of Representatives on Monday evening:

Mr. McKean said he had often read, in the British classics, the instructive take of the youth who set out in the morning for a day's journey. When the sun was high he turned from the road into a shaded path, which seemed to lead in the same direction. But when a tempestuous night overtook him, he was far from the main road and the end of his journey. He durst not go forward, and could not return. How like the course of this young nation! Alas! that the career of a great people should be cited

"To point a moral or adorn a tale." "To point a moral or adorn a tale,"

Our fathers said to us: "Bring no more bondmen here from Africa; take no bondmen into the Territories." But we have allowed Slavery to expand. The monster that we hated "we first pity, then endure, and their embrace." We have wandered from the right road. We dare not go forward; let us try to return. He spoke of the rebellion, and said that since the introduction of his bill to close the ports of South Carolina to foreign trade, other States had rebelled, and the Committee, through Mr. John Coch-South Carolina to foreign trade, other States had rebelled, and the Committee, through Mr. John Cochrane, had reported a general bill. He advocated its passage. He would have the nation offer to pay the Border-State slaveholders, if they would liberate their slaves. If the offer be accepted, the question is settled; if rejected, let the slaveholders hold their peace. He would not recall his vote against appointing the Committee of Thirty-Three. The Whig party died because many of its leaders were cowards, and durst not do right. The Democratic party is dying, if not dead, because many of its leaders were viliains, and durst do wrong. As for us, being right, let us dare to do right, because many of its leaders were villains, and durat do wrong. As for us, being right, let us dare to do right, and have some faith in truth, and justice, and God. He would not coerce New-Mexico into the Union. If she comes a Slave State, it would not conciliate. If she comes a Slave State, we do not want her. If the Constitution is to be amended in the interest of Slavery, make thorough work of it.

Heroley, That Dismiss and treason may be made lawful by adding to Article 2 of the Constitution the following smendment, to wit. Section 3. Whenever a party shall be defeated have nelection for President and Vice-President, such party are relected take up arms, and unless the successful shall subpt as its own the principles of the defeated party and consent to such amendments of the Constitution as the latter party shall dictate, then the Union shall be at an end.

He did not despair of the country. Yonder unfinished monument to the Father of his Country is not to become the headstone to the burial of the liberties of this nation. The Asteroids are said to be the frag-

this nation. The Asteroids are said to be the frag-ments of larger planets burst as under. The solar sys-tem still endures, and still is heard the music of the spheres. So shall survive this great Republic unde of nany republics, and we will go back to the way in which our fathers went, and whence we have wap-The Asteroids are said to be the frag

Arkansas Election.

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1861.
Official vote of Washington County: Majority against Convention, 974; average majority of the Union icket, 1,400,

Prominent Soccessionists are gradually conceding that the State has gone against a Convention by a large ma-

FORT SMITH, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1861. Four counties in Western Arkaneas, viz: Benton Washington, Sebastian and Crawford, have elected Union delegates to the State Convention by over 4,000 majority. The majority against a Convention in the same counties is also about 4,000.

Exciting Texas News.

FORT SMITH, Ark., Wednesday, Fob. 20, 1861. An extra overland coach arrived here this morning from Sherman, Texas. The conductor and passengers report the seizure, at Fort Chadbourne, by Texans, of the coach, with its mails, now over due here. The property of the Company within reach is also seized, and the agents and other employees are said to be imprisoned. It is also reported that Forts Chadbourne and Belknap have been captured.

Union Meeting in Boston.

Bosron, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1861.

A meeting of the Union Workingmen was held in Faneuil Hall to-night. Mr. Jonathan Preston presided and Messrs. Durant, Kelly, Ball, and others addressed the meeting. An address to the Workingmen of the State was

adopted, urging union in the strongest terms. The address is a lengthy document, but it is liberal in its propositions. Secession Demonstration.

inauguration of Mr. Jefferson Davis. Sinking of a Steamer.

Carno, Il., Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1861.

The steamer Fort Wayne has sunk in the shute of Island No. 16. The boat is probably a total loss. A small portion of the cargo was saved. No insurance, No ityes loss.

LINCOLN AND HASUIN IN NEW-YORK.

Presidential Levee at the City Hall. WELCOME BY MAYOR WOOD.

MR. LINCOLN'S RESPONSE.

Interview with Distinguished Citizens.

VISIT TO THE OPERA. MR. LINCOLN'S RECEPTION

GRAND SERENADE.

THE DEPARTURE TO-DAY.

The morning of yesterday opened inauspiciously for the pleasant accomplishment of the programme which had been announced for the day. The rain of the night previous, and the few flakes of snow, that melted as soon as it touched the ground, which were falling during the morning, had put the streets into a bad condition for a large turn out of pedestrians to meet the President elect at his reception; but, as the sun came out about midday, the scene hightened, and people once more thronged after Mr. Lincoln-this time in the hope to get a nearer view of the distinguished traveler.

First in the proceedings of the day was THE BREAKFAST AT MR. GRINNELL'S.

At half past eight o'clock, the carriages of Mr. Mosce H. Grinnell and Mr. Wm. H. Aspinwall, were in waiting at the Astor House for the President and suite. The party, in a few minutes, were driven to Mr. Grinnell's mansion, near the corner of Fifth avenue and Fourteenth street, in acceptance of an invitation to breakfast. The company that sat down to the table numbered about thirty, and beside Mr. Lincoln and his suite among the prominent persons present were Mr. Aspinwall, Dr. Hoadley, Mr. Booth, Robert L. Stevens, R. L. Stuart, Stewart Brown, Thomas Tileston, Hon. Hamilton Fish, Charles H. Marshall, Robert B. Minturn, Simeon Draper, John Jacob Astor, jr., Controller Haws, John A. Stevens, Thurlow Weed, and Gen. Webb. The affair was throughout social and pleasant, and it was nearly two hours before Mr. Lincoin returned to

THE ASTOR HOUSE,

to which place he was accompanied by several of the breakfast party. Here he gave a brief reception of a less promiscuous character than the ordinary ones-indeed almost all of the persons presented in the halfhour intervening before he should hold the public reception in the Governor's Room, were distinguished

in some of the walks of life.

Mr. Dewey, a venerable man, 94 years of age, residing on Long Island, and who was a member of the Legislature of 1799, was introduced. As Mr. Lincoln shook his band, he remarked that he had voted for every President but one, in which instance, he lost his vote in consequence of a removal from one town to another; that Washington received his first vote, and Lincoln his last. He gave some account of his habits, his time of rising at this season at 5 o'clock; in the Summer at an earlier hour. He is hale and hearty, and perhaps may live to cast a second vote for Abraham Liacoln, whom he seemed to hold in a fervent affec-THE COMMITTEE OF THE SUPERVISORS.

The Committee of the Board of Supervisors, headed by Elijah F. Purdy, the "eld war-horse of Democracy," were introduced. Then met "the one honest man of Tammany" and "Honest Old Abe." Mr. Purdy, addressing the President, said, that they appeared as a Committee of the Board of Supervisors to tender a cordial welcome to the county of New-York. The action of the constituted authorities of the city had superceded the need of tendering the use of rooms for a public reception.

Mr. Lincoln, in a few appropriate remarks, return his thanks for the hospitalities tendered. The remaind-er of the Committee, Messrs. Blunt, Dutcher, Roach and Davis, were then introduced.

The pleasant face of Barnara was "bobbing around." There is something irresistible about Barnum that wins its way through the most flinty-hearted, and opens the gates of courts and palaces, Presidents' private reception-rooms, and what not. He penetrates through all barriers of rank, or circumstance, or position in enlightened communities, as a Layard or a Livingstone surnount difficulties in passing through savage regions.

"I said I would come if I could," remarked Mr.

Lincoln, in reply to a query of the prince of showmen "Well, you can," was the truly Yankee answer of the man whose head remains undizzified, although moving about day by day, amid 850,000 curiosities. In the afternoon, Mr. Barnum might have been seen giving a lesson in natural history to one of the younger Republican Princes. The wax figures took his eye nightily, and he even parted from Barnum to return and look upon the vast proportions of that great man of a former generation-Daniel Lambert. " pass along, for we have many things to see here." The Albinoes, the Artecs, the "What is It ?" are quickly burried over; the intelligent seal eats his fish very gentcely, but still with a relish. Barnum says he enter 20 pounds a day, and another of the same spiccies 60 pounds. "Is that the rail-splitter?" cries a voice. It's the rail-splitter, the Prince of Rails," replies Barnum. After seeing the Happy Family (which has to be separated when the keeper is away for fear of a quarrel), the Prince enjoyed himself hugely in Barnum's private box, for an hour or two, unconscious to himself apparently, " the observed of all observers.

RECEPTION AT THE CITY HALL. As the weather had been so unpleasant, but few per-sons assembled within and about the City Hall during the half hour proceding the time appointed for th public reception in the Governor's Room. The detachments of the Police from the lower Wards assembled, and made the usual arrangements for the preservation of order, General Superintendent Kennedy and the Inspectors being present and in charge. When, however, the damp snow ceased to fall, and the sun arose to dry the streets, thousands of citizens swarmed into the Park, and assembled about the steps of the City Hall.

At five minutes before 11, Mayor Wood left his office, accompanied by the two Boards of the Common Council, the heads of the Departments in the City Government and the members of the press.

At 11 precisely, a close carriage with four splendid lack horses, entered the Park from the west and drove to the front of the City Hall, where Mr. Lincoln, ac companied by the Hon. Norman B. Judd of Illinois, and Alderman Cornell and Councilman Barney of the Special Committee, alighted and passed through the lines to the Governor's room, amidthe loud cheers of the assem-

Here Mr. Cornell introduced to Mr. Lincoln Mayor Wood, who was standing by the writing table of Washngton, one of the relics in possession of this city.

ADDRESS OF MAYOR WOOD.

Mayor Wood said.

Mayor Wood said:

Mr. Lincoln: As Mayor of New-York it becomes
my duty to extend to you an official welcome in behalf
of the Corporation. In doing so, permit me to say that
this city has never off-ord hospitality to a man clothed
with more exalted you era, or resting under graver
responsibilities, then those which circumstances have
develved upon you. Coming into office with a dismembered Government to reconstruct, and a disconmetted and hy-ctile people to reconcile, it will require a
high partiot am and an elevated comprehension of the
whole country and its varied interests, opinions and
prejudices, to so conduct public affairs so as bring it
back regain to its former harmonious, consolidated and
prepareous condition. MOBILE, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 1861. The Tribune office was illuminated in honor of the

pro perous condition.

16 I refer to this topic, Sir, it is because New-York is deeply interested. The present political divisions

have sorely afflicted her people. All her material interests are paralyzed. Her commercial greatness is endangered. She is the child of he American Usion. She has grown up under its maternal care and been fostered by its paternal bounty, and we fear that if the Union dies the present supremsey of New-York may perish with it. To you, therefore, chosen under the forms of the Constitution as the head of the Confederacy, we look for a restoration of fraternal relations between the States—only to be accomplished by peaceful and concillatory means—saided by the wisdom of Almighty God.

RESPONSE OF MR. LINCOLN.

RESPONSE OF MR. LINCOLN.

Mr. Lincoln said in reply:

Mr. Mayor: It is with Selings of deep gratitude that I make my acknowledge tents for the reception given me in the great commercial City of New-York. I cannot but remember that this is done by a people who do not, by a majority, agree with me in political sentiment. It is the more grateful became in this I see that for the great principles of our Government the people are almost unanimons. In re, and of which your bonor has thought fit to speak, so becomingly and so justly as I suppose, I cannot be the difficulties that confront me at this time, and of which your bonor has thought fit to speak, so becomingly and so justly as I suppose, I can only say that I agree in the sentiments expressed by the Mayor. In my devotion to the Union, I have a made in the nation. In the wisdom we which to conduct the affairstending to the preservation of the Union, I fear that too great confidence may have been reposed in me; but I am sure I brings a heart devoted to the work. There is nothing that could every bring me to willingly consent to the destruction of this Union, under which not only the great commercial City of New-York but the whole conservy has acquired its greatness, except it be nursee for which the Union itself was formed. mercial City of New-York but the whole concerty has acquired its greatness, except it be purpose for which the Union itself was formed. I understand the ship to be made for the carrying and the preservation of the cargo, and so long as the concern be saved with the cargo, it should never be absoluted, unless it fails the possibility of its preservation, and shell cease to exist, except at the risk of throwing overboard both freight and passengers. So long, then, as it is possible that the prosperity and the liberries of the people be preserved in this Union, it shell be my purpose at all times to use all my powers to sid in its perpetuation. Again thanking you for the reception given me, allow me to come to a close.

When Mr. Lincoln had concluded his remarks, which were listened to with profound silence, the

which were listened to with profound silence, the Mayor introduced to him the various members Common Council, and the heads of departments preeent. A few words other than the ordinary salute were exchanged with each, and he then took a position midway between the main entrance to the Governor's Room and the western door which wasto be the place of exit, Mayor Wood and the members of the Committee remaining at his side. Lines were formed a passage-way opened, the doors were thrown apart and for nearly two hours a constant success citizens and others passed before the President elect amounting in all to nearly five thousand persons, among whom were a few ladies. The position occupied by Mr. Lincoln was at the side of the bronze statue Washington. As each person passed him, he extended those who are accustomed to Western manners always experience when thus exchanging courtesies with hose who have been reared on the borders.

Acting upon the unpleasant experience which other guests had had in years past, the members of the Committee suggested to Mr. Lincoln, that for his own comfort, he had better discontinue shaking hands; but this seemed to be too much of a sacrifice to make, except be felt the necessity, Mr. Lincoln declined for the present; though a half hour later he acted upon the Committee's advice, and during the remainder of the reception satisfied himself with bowing and exchanging salutations, except in the case of the ladies, and in stances where distinguished citizens at home and abroad were specially introduced to him.

Many pleasant episodes transpired to add to the interest of the occasion. Among others, the Veterane 1812, under Col. Raymond, were received by Mr. Lin coln and cordially greeted. They each had on their cockades, and many of them were deeply affected by the interview. Some of the oldest, as they tottered publicoked up to Mr. Lincoln's face, with a seeming childish timidity, struggled in the effort to utter a " Ge bless you," as, with tears trickling down their cheeks they took their farewell. Col. Raymond said to Mr. Lincoln that they were old soldiers, and were Union men. Many years ago they had fought to insure the perpetuity of the institutions of our country, and they did not now, when about to pase away, wish to see

their labors lost. A Mr. Coben of Charleston, S. C., was into to Mr. Lincoln, when Mayor Wood remarked the gentleman lived out of Mr. Lincoln's jurisdiction. Lincoln replied that he should not for that reason refuse to greet him, and he gave him a cordial shake of

As one old gentleman passed by, he said to Mr. Lincoln with much emotion, "Mr. President, I trust you will not forget the Collector of Georgetown, Carolina, who is now in prison on a charge of high treason, because he did his duty."

the hand.

Volunteer advice was of frequent occurrence, and h generally expressed the settiment of "no compromise," but to sustain the Constitution and the laws.

At 1 o'clock there was no seeming diminu-

numbers in waiting to be admitted into the Governor's room, but as the time had expired the doors were closed. Loud cheers ascended from the crowd outside and Mr. Lincoln came forward on the balcony. When the cheers had subsided, he said:

the cheers had subsided, he said:

FRIENDS: I do not appear for the purpose of making a speech. I design to make no speech. I came merely to see you, and allow you to see me. [Cheers.] And I have to say to you, as I have said frequently to andiences on my journey, that, in the sight, I have the best of the bargain. [Tremendous cheers.] Assuming that you are all for the Constitution, the Union [renewed cheering], and the perpetual liberties of this people, I bid you farewell. [Cheers.]

These brief words having been spoken, Mr. Lincoln with and was conducted to his carriage by the retired, and was conducted to his carriage by the

Mayor, where they parted with kind words and a cor-

dial shake of the hands, and in a moment the Presiden elect was being rapidly driven to the Aster House. AT THE ASTOR HOUSE AGAIN. Mr. Lincoln at once retired to his room, and remained there some time to rest. In the mean time a numerous assemblage of citizens had gathered in Mr. Lincoln's reception room in the Astor House, to await his coming. Among them were Charles H. Marshall, the Fred. A. Conkling, John Jay, Col. Webb, John Bigelow, Judge Peabody, Gen. Nye, Erastus C. Bened and R. H. McCurdy. All present were severally in-troduced to Mr. Lincoln by Mr. Nicolai, his Private

Secretary.

Mr. Lincoln again retired to rest, and for two hours slept undisturbed. At 4 o'clock, a second reception was held, on which occasion Simeon Draper introduced Shepherd Knapp, ex-Mayor Kingsland, Pos Taylor, Col. Shaler and other officers of the Sevent Regiment, Darius Clark, Dr. Munday, J. Smith Homane, Chauncey Shaffer, John Van Buren, E. W.

Stoughton, and many others. The venerable Rev. Dr. Lyman Beecher and him wife were introduced, and greeted by Mr. Lincoln with

Mr. Hazard, the powder manufactures, was presented, and Mr. Lincoln smilingly told him to "keep his powder dry." Whether the future policy of the new Administration can be divined from this remark extremely problematical.

After the reception had been concluded, Mr. Lincol retired to dine, and it was announced that he would, at be at liberty to hold any other reception.

ARRIVAL OF MR. HAMLIN.

Late in the afternoon, the Hon. Hamibal He mile,

Vice-President elect, with his lady, arrived by the
New-Haven train, and was welcomed by Mr. Lincoln and lady, at their rooms at the Astor House, where, is one of their suite of rooms, they subsequenty dind a together. This concluded, Mr. Lincoln and several his suite, accompanied by the Committee of the Common Cenneil, took their departure in carriages for the Academy of Music. VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT ELECT TO THE ACAD

The good places of the Academy, saving some of the

tockholders' boxes, and many of the bad oper, were filled last evening with a brilliant sudience. 'After the first act of the "Masked Ball," the Presider a elect and suite entered the stage-box of the fires circle, on the See Eighth ? age.